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**GOVERNOR DAVIS DECLARES STATE OF EMERGENCY IN  
MEXICAN FRUIT FLY INFESTATION**

*Action Targets Flies Found in Northern San Diego County*

**SACRAMENTO** – Governor Gray Davis today declared a state of emergency in the fight against a Mexican fruit fly infestation in Northern San Diego County.

“The Mexican fruit fly is very destructive pest that has the potential to wipe out agriculture as we know it,” Gov. Davis said. “In declaring an emergency, I am instructing my Secretary of Food and Agriculture and my Director of the Office Emergency Services, to work together to eradicate this pest.”

The current area of infestation in Northern San Diego County grows an estimated \$75 million worth of crops annually. Left unchecked, the Mexican fruit fly could infest the entire state of California. The estimated impact to the state economy for such an infestation would range from \$750 million to \$2 billion annually, including the loss of jobs in both rural and urban communities and lost trading opportunities.

The emergency declaration will enable state agencies to pool resources and work cooperatively with the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) in addressing the response to the infestation.

CDFA has already established a 117-square mile quarantine zone around the infestation that severely restricts movement of fruits, vegetables and other host plants. CDFA is developing an eradication program along with sister agencies.

To date, more than 70 adult Mexican fruit flies have been trapped inside the quarantine zone, with larvae confirmed at six sites.

The Mexican fruit fly is native to Southern and Central Mexico. The fly attacks over 40 different kinds of fruits, including citrus and avocado. Damage occurs when the female fly lays eggs in the fruit. The eggs hatch into maggots, which make the fruit unfit for human consumption.

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